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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Schultz et al.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, applicants hereby bring to the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. The pertinence of these references is indicated in the International Search Report (copy enclosed) for the corresponding PCT application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is required. If additional fees are required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 14-1138.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 9, 2001

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R504141.1

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patenta, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below.

July 10,20

Ruth R. Smith